

September 16, 2003

September Sixteenth

20-----03

The second regular Meeting of City Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, Albert K. "Buddy" Rawley, Jr., Sherman M. Saunders, H. Phillip Smith and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (9)

Administrative Staff Members present were City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Deputy City Manager M. Lyle Lacy, III, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, City Attorney Timothy R. Spencer, Finance Director Aubrey D. Dodson, and Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff Members present were Police Chief Philip Broadfoot, Economic Development Director Ron Bunch, Community Development Director Jerry Fischer, Fire Chief B. G. Lewis, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Tish Lindsey, and Emergency Services Director Doug Young.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Smith offered the Invocation. In memory of 9-11-01, a Color Guard from the Danville Fire Department conducted the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag in a solemn ceremony. Mayor Hamlin said that we must never forget and that all our lives were forever changed by the horrific events of that day.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Ms. Nancy J. Chaney appeared and expressed dismay that Oak Hill Cemetery had been recently mowed and the grass clippings had obscured many of the grave sites. Ms. Chaney said she had attended a burial there recently and explained that she had family members buried there. She was unable to find the graves because of the debris left following the mowing. Ms. Chaney said she had been unsuccessful in reaching the Cemetery Director after several attempts. The Director had not returned her phone calls. Ms. Chaney presented pictures of the condition at the cemetery that indicated gravesites had been completely covered by the grass cuttings.

Ms. Fannie C. Owens explained that she had owned a plot there for 50 years. She said that in the fall of 2001, she had filed a complaint about the condition of the cemetery and to date, the complaint had not been addressed.

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Mayor Hamlin was deeply concerned and requested that City Manager Gwaltney have the matter investigated as soon as possible. Mr. Gwaltney agreed to take care of the matter during the regular post-Council staff meeting with department directors on Wednesday.

Mr. Wyatt Watkins, a Kennon Drive resident, requested that Council take some action on the matter of weeds and dilapidated housing. Mr. Watkins specifically mentioned a home across the street from 806 Monroe Street. He said the home should be torn down.

Mayor Hamlin said the issues of overgrown weeds, debris, and dilapidated houses were addressed in a recent Council work session. He said it would take some time to take care of every situation. Mayor Hamlin said the Inspections Division is working diligently toward stricter enforcement of the Code.

Council Member Rawley said there are many areas in the City that need cleaning up. Mr. Rawley vowed to do all he could to have the problem areas cleaned up.

Council Member Castiglione requested that Mr. Watkins leave a list of any problem areas that he was aware of with City Manager Gwaltney.

Mayor Hamlin expressed appreciation to Ms. Chaney, Ms. Owens, and Mr. Watkins for bringing their concerns to City Council.

MINUTES

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Vice-Mayor Williams, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 2, 2003 were approved as presented. Draft copies had been distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

HEARING-APPLICATION FOR ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider the submission of an application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for an Enterprise Zone. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on September 3 and 10, 2003. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice-Mayor Williams moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-09.04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ENTERPRISE ZONE.

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The Motion was seconded by Council Member Luther and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-UDAG REPAYMENT & INTEREST INCOME

Upon Motion by Council Member Archie and second by Council Member Daniels, Ordinance No. 2003-09.01 presented by its First Reading on September 2, 2003 amending the 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for projects to be undertaken with the City to be financed through the UDAG Repayment and Interest Income Program to provide additional program funds was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-UNITED STATES OFFICE OF JUSTICE

Upon Motion by Council Member Luther and second by Vice-Mayor Williams, Ordinance No. 2003-09.04 presented by its First Reading on September 2, 2003 amending the 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to provide for a grant in the amount of \$50,496 from the United States Office of Justice Programs, National Domestic Preparedness Office Grant Program to purchase equipment for appropriate public safety first responders for emergency calls was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

CANCEL OCTOBER 21, 2003 COUNCIL MEETING DATE

Council Member Castiglione moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-09.05

A RESOLUTION CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 21, 2003 AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 23, 2003.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Luther and adopted by the following vote:

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VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

Mayor Hamlin advised that some Council Members and members of the City Administration would be attending the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference in Roanoke; therefore, the meeting would be rescheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

REQUEST TO MODIFY JOINT CITY/COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE

Council Member Daniels moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-09.06

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING MODIFICATION TO A JOINT CITY/COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE LOCATED IN PITTSYVLANIA COUNTY.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Archie and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).
NAY: None (0).

REDUCE INTEREST RATES ON LOANS FROM VRLF

Council Member Luther moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-09.07

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH A REDUCTION IN THE INTEREST RATES ON THE CITY'S TAXABLE UTILITY REVENUE BOND, SERIES OF 1993, ITS TAXABLE UTILITY REVENUE BOND, SERIES OF 1995, AND ITS TAXABLE UTILITY REVENUE BOND, SERIES OF 1997.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Daniels and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,
Smith, and Williams (9).

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NAY: None (0).

City Manager Gwaltney advised that when these funds were borrowed, interest rates were below market when the transactions took place; however the rates are above current market rates. Mr. Gwaltney said the City would realize a net present value savings of \$325,000 with the reduction in interest rates.

Council Member Castiglione expressed appreciation to the management team. He specifically thanked Finance Director Aubrey Dodson for looking after the interest of the City.

BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2003-04-TITLE III-B & III-D GRANT FUNDS

Upon Motion by Council Member Castiglione and second by Council Member Daniels, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-09.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING CERTAIN REVENUES TO PROVIDE FOR TITLE III-B AND TITLE III-D GRANT FUNDS AND LOCAL SHARE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATING SAME

was presented by its First Reading as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Gwaltney said the debris in the pictures of Oak Hill Cemetery that Ms. Chaney had presented to Council Members was inexcusable and that he would take care of it personally.

Mr. Gwaltney called attention to a position paper and other information relating to broadband material that had been placed at the desk of each Council Member. He asked that Council Members review the material, which will be discussed during the Joint Meeting with the Utility Commission scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of City Hall.

Mr. Gwaltney gave an update on the location of Hurricane Isabel. The City is expected to feel the effect of the hurricane on Thursday, September 18 between the hours of 6-9 p.m. with 2-4 inches of rainfall. He encouraged citizens to be prepared in the event of power outages and flooding.

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Mr. Gwaltney recalled that during a recent meeting, Council Members had been requested by a citizen to visit some of the City's problem-ridden neighborhoods. It was agreed that Council would leave City Hall on Thursday, October 16 at 5 p.m.

Mr. Gwaltney called attention to the 2003 Official Statement of the City related to the recent refunding bonds. Copies had been placed at the desk of each Council Member.

There were no communications from the Deputy City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Archie thanked City Manager Gwaltney for the book he recently sent to Council Members about development in Virginia. She said Virginia had some exciting places that had accomplished great things. Mrs. Archie said that perhaps Danville could pattern after some of these communities.

Mrs. Archie expressed appreciation to Mr. Gwaltney for personally taking charge of the cemetery matter that was brought before Council earlier. She said she planned to go to the cemetery and assess the situation on Wednesday.

Mrs. Archie advised that Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services Board would have a grand opening for two Phoenix Houses, one located on Hartford Street and the other on Northwest Boulevard. She expressed pride that the City had two more of the houses.

Mrs. Archie advised that Monday, September 22, 2003 is National Eat Dinner with your Family Day. The Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is requesting that everyone plan to have dinner with his or her family and make family dinners a part of daily life. That is one habit that may prevent another habit.

Council Member Castiglione reported that he was in Richmond last Tuesday representing Danville Community College (DCC) at a Homeland Security meeting. Mr. Castiglione advised that DCC's Homeland Security plan is rated the highest out of twenty-three community colleges. He commended Emergency Services Director Doug Young who had been a tremendous support person in the development of DCC's plan.

Mr. Castiglione congratulated everyone who had worked so hard to bring the HOPE VI project to the City. Grand Opening ceremonies had taken place last Friday.

Council Member Daniels commended the Honor Guard made up of members of the Fire Department. Mr. Daniels said he was very impressed with the ceremony.

Mayor Hamlin thanked the Fire Department Honor Guard for their moving ceremony.

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Council Member Luther called attention to a flyer that had been sent to area residents by the Post Office about "Old 97" Day. The City of Danville is one of the sponsors of the event. Mr. Luther recalled that it was exactly 100 years ago on a Saturday afternoon that the Old 97 jumped off the tracks in North Danville. The train carried no passengers since it was a mail train. The Danville Post Office will set up a mail station by the railroad station and will operate on that day only. If anyone wishes to mail a letter from that station, Mr. Luther said it would be hand cancelled with a Wreck of the Old 97 postmark. He said many visitors would be coming into Danville just to commemorate that fateful day and there will be many activities for everyone. The event will take place on Saturday, September 27.

Mr. Luther expressed excitement that the Old North Theatre Building is in the process of being renovated. He said the theatre is one of only a few freestanding theatres remaining.

Council Member Rawley expressed his apologies to Ms. Chaney and Ms. Owens concerning the debris at Oak Hill cemetery. He said that the City's Ordinances should be enforced to the fullest extent of the law.

Council Member Saunders thanked Ms. Chaney and Ms. Owens for bringing their concerns to City Council. Mr. Saunders recognized and acknowledged the presence of Commander of American Legion Post 29 Jimmy Edwards. Mr. Saunders said he was a member of Post 29 and thanked Mr. Edwards for his attendance.

Mr. Saunders announced that the Danville-Pittsylvania Community Action Agency, Inc. would be holding its annual dinner meeting on Friday, September 19, 2003, 6:00 p.m., at the Stratford Conference Center. He invited everyone to attend.

Council Member Smith thanked Ms. Chaney and Ms. Owens for their attendance. He said Council needed to set down and discuss the present policy and maintenance relating to the City's cemeteries. Mr. Smith advised he had received complaints over the years about the grass cuttings.

Mr. Smith reported he had attended the recent grand opening ceremonies at Liberty View. He thanked those citizens who serve on the volunteer board of the First Tee Foundation and especially thanked them for their interest in the children.

Vice-Mayor Williams said that it was very exciting to hear of all that is happening in the City of Danville. Dr. Williams said these events are another impetus to the City's economic development efforts.

Dr. Williams reported that he had attended the George Washington High School football game last Friday evening and that security measures were in full force. He expressed his appreciation to Police Chief Philip Broadfoot for his assistance in assuring that our citizens can enjoy sports activities without safety concerns.

Dr. Williams said that we must never forget September 11, 2001.

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The Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

MAYOR

CLERK